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Cornell University

Library

Exercises at the Opening
of the Library Building



THE LIBRARY
OF
THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

EXERCISES

AT THE OPENING OF

THE LIBRARY BUILDING

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER SEVENTH

1891



General Library Building : Looking toward the Southwest.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

EXERCISES AT THE OPENING

— OF —

THE LIBRARY BUILDING

CONTAINING

A DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING; THE ADDRESS OF THE HON. HENRY W. SAGE,
PRESENTING THE BUILDING AND ITS ENDOWMENT; THE ADDRESS OF EX-
PRESIDENT ANDREW D. WHITE, PRESENTING THE WHITE LIBRARY
OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE; THE ADDRESSES OF
ACCEPTANCE BY PRESIDENT ADAMS AND LIBRARIAN
HARRIS, TOGETHER WITH THE ADDRESSES OF
PRESIDENT D. C. GILMAN, OF JOHNS HOP-
KINS UNIVERSITY, AND PROFESSOR
MOSES COIT TYLER.

OCTOBER 7, 1891

ITHACA, N. Y.
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*Great thought that in a lofty soul found place,
And now finds voice in miracle of stone ;
Not through Cathedral door to books alone
We enter here ; for all that Good can trace
On human hearts we come ; and, keeping pace
With high endeavor, struggle to atone
For loss elsewhere ; for surcease from the moan
Of restlessness, for Peace that shall efface
All littleness, and lift us to the air
Of larger usefulness, and Victory won.
Above all else we seek within thy ken
For that Great Spirit, luminous and rare,
That once again proclaims what can be done
By those who live to serve their fellow-men.*

— MARY M. ADAMS.



East Entrance.

Opening of the Library Building.

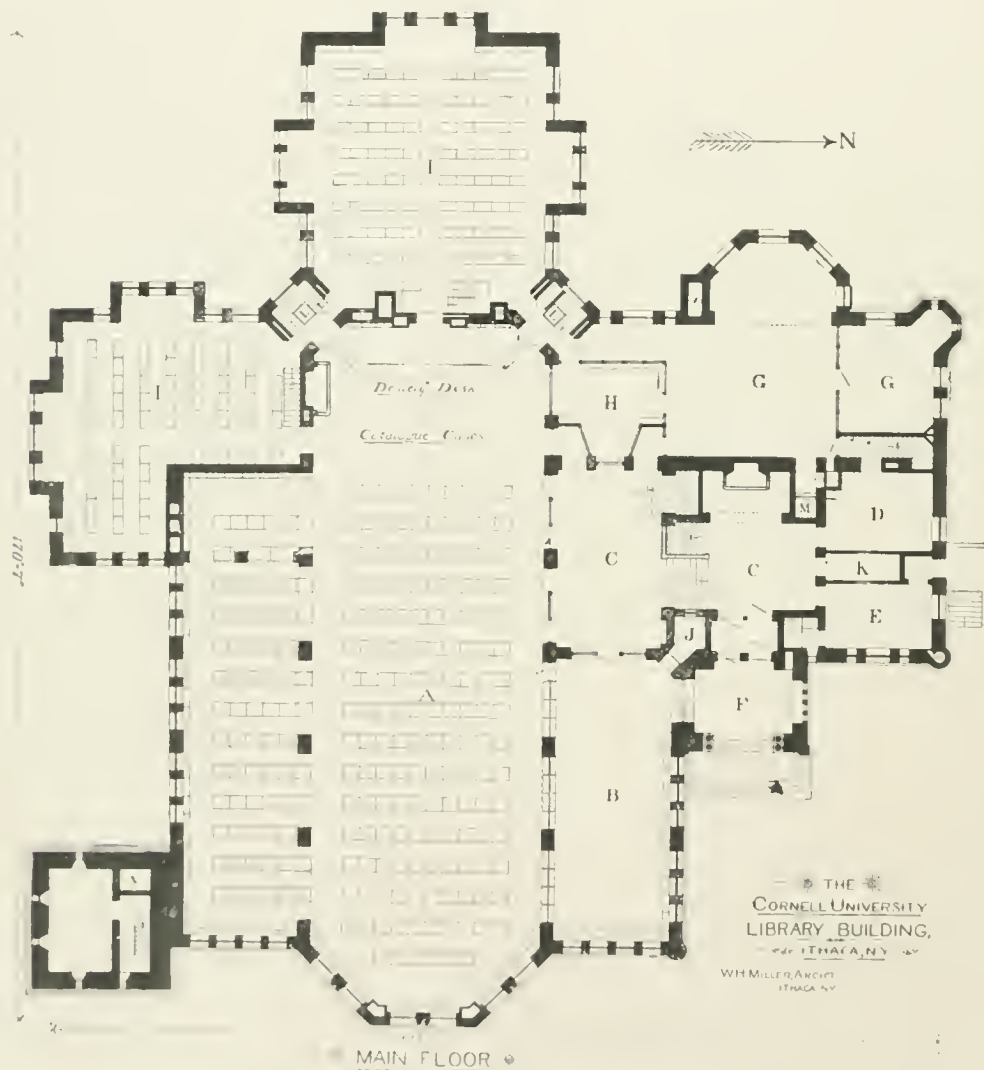
Description.

The Library stands at the southwest corner of the as yet incomplete quadrangle formed by the main University buildings. The ground here, sloping rapidly to the south and west, offered some advantages which have been turned to good account by the architect. Thus the reading room, which is entered from the ground-level on the east side of the building, is on the level of the fourth floor of the west stack room; and as the stack is divided into seven stories, each seven feet high, the delivery desk is placed at the vertical middle of the stack, which thus becomes practically one of four stories instead of seven. The division of the stack, which has a present capacity of four hundred thousand volumes, into two wings, placed at right angles to each other, while providing greater opportunities for future extension, also brings the books nearer to the point of delivery; so that in either stack the most distant book is only one hundred and twenty feet from the centre of the delivery desk, and there are no shelves beyond easy reach from the floor. The accompanying plans will show that not only has the first great requirement of ample room for the future storage of books with direct and easy access from the delivery desk been completely met, but the no less important conditions of successful working, such as economy of administration, abundance of light, good ventilation, and generous provision for the needs of advanced students as well as for those of the general reader, have been thoroughly recognized and richly fulfilled.

The extreme dimensions of the building are one hundred and seventy feet by one hundred and fifty-three feet. The general outlines are somewhat in the form of a cross, the book stacks, I, I, occupying the southern and western arms, the reading rooms, A, B, the eastern, while the northern provides accommodation for the offices of administration, the White Library, and seven seminar rooms. It is built of stone, and the construction is fire-proof throughout. It is lighted by electricity, and heated by steam supplied from the central heating station. A thorough system of artificial ventilation is also provided for, though only some of the principal ventilating shafts are shown on the accompanying plans, where they are designated by the letter V.

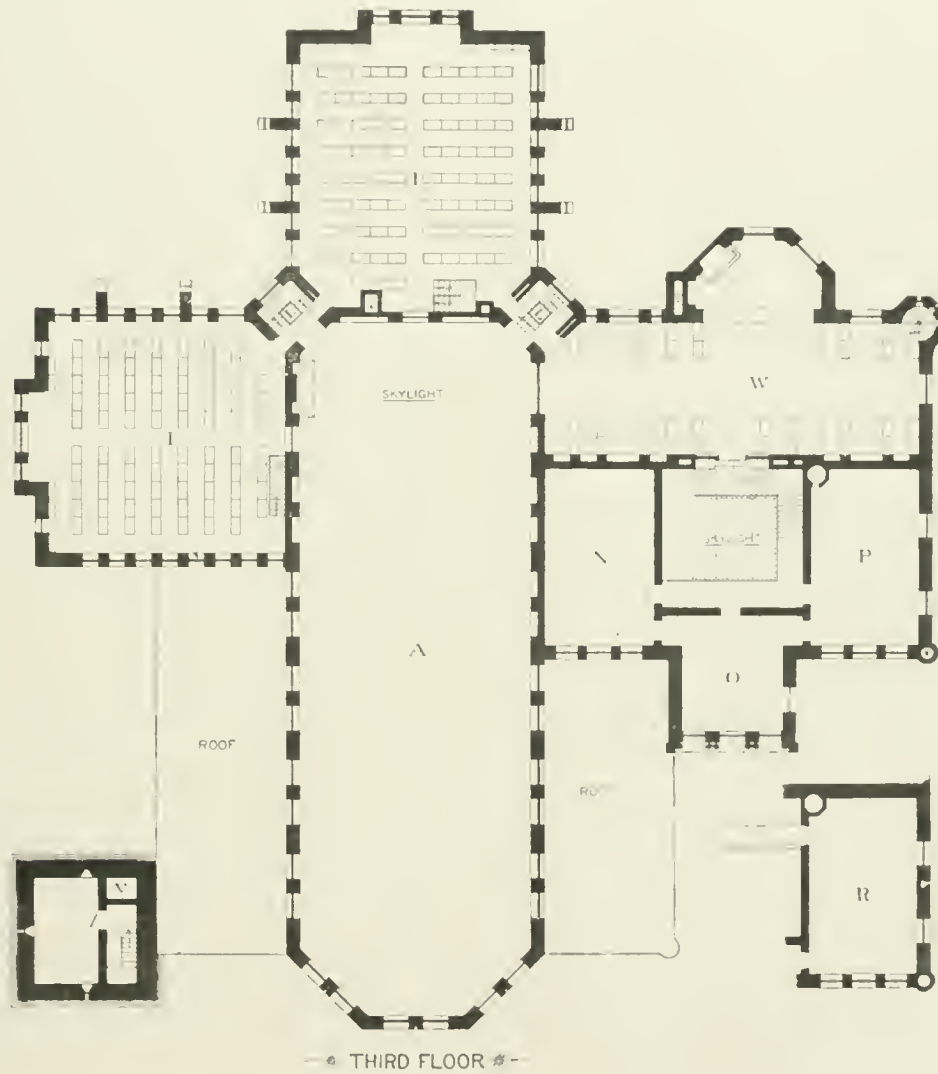
The main entrance is in the northeast angle, and over the front doors in the vestibule F, on a gold mosaic back-ground, is a beautiful bronze medallion of Mrs. Jennie McGraw-Fiske, in loving memory of whom, as is recorded on a tablet near by, the Library was built and endowed by Henry W. Sage.

The entrance hall, C, is wainscoted with colored marbles and is lighted by a skylight, the position of which is shown on the third-floor plan. On the right



are the women's cloak room E, with a separate outside entrance, the men's cloak room D, and a checking room K, for umbrellas, etc. In this hall, facing the entrance, is a large open fireplace with recesses on either side for seats, where con-

versation can be carried on freely without disturbing readers. Turning to the left, a short flight of steps leads to the inner entrance hall, C, from which open the general reading room A, the periodical reading room B, the librarian's room H, and the cataloguing room G. The reading room for periodicals, B, is about fifty by twenty-one feet, lighted from the east and north by large windows eight



feet from the floor; the number and position of these windows are shown on the main floor plan. Beneath them runs a range of wall bookcases with a capacity for six thousand seven hundred and fifty volumes. On the tables in this room are displayed the current numbers of the most important magazines and reviews,

while the older numbers and the less frequently used periodicals are arranged in binders on the shelves which surround the room. The floor of this room and of the general reading room is covered with corticine, which is almost as noiseless as carpet, and much more cleanly. All the woodwork and furniture of the principal rooms is of quartered oak highly polished.

The general reading room A, one hundred and twenty-six by sixty-six feet, will provide seats for two hundred and twenty readers, allowing to each a desk two feet by two feet ten inches. This room is lighted partly by a range of windows eight feet from the floor, extending around the south and east sides of the



Detail of Stone Work over East Entrance.

room, as shown on the main floor plan, and partly by a higher range of clere-story windows, the position and number of which are shown on the third-floor plan. By a comparison of these two plans it will be seen that the reading room for periodicals and the south side of the general reading room, form, as it were, two low aisles adjoining the main portion of the general reading room, which runs up to a much greater height, thus giving space for the long range of clere-story windows. In the south aisle the reading tables are single, and face toward the delivery desk, as shown on the plan, but in the main portion of the room, which is lighted by the clere-story windows, the tables are of double width, with a longitudinal division, and run lengthwise of the room. That a sufficient supply



General Reading Room.

of light is provided is evident from the fact that the floor area of the room being six thousand six hundred and twelve square feet, the glass area is one thousand and twenty-five square feet. Around the walls of the room, beneath the windows, are bookcases for a permanent reference library of eight thousand volumes within reach of all readers. This reference library has been selected with the aid of the professors in the several departments of study, and is supplemented by the addition, from term to term, of the books reserved by professors for tem-



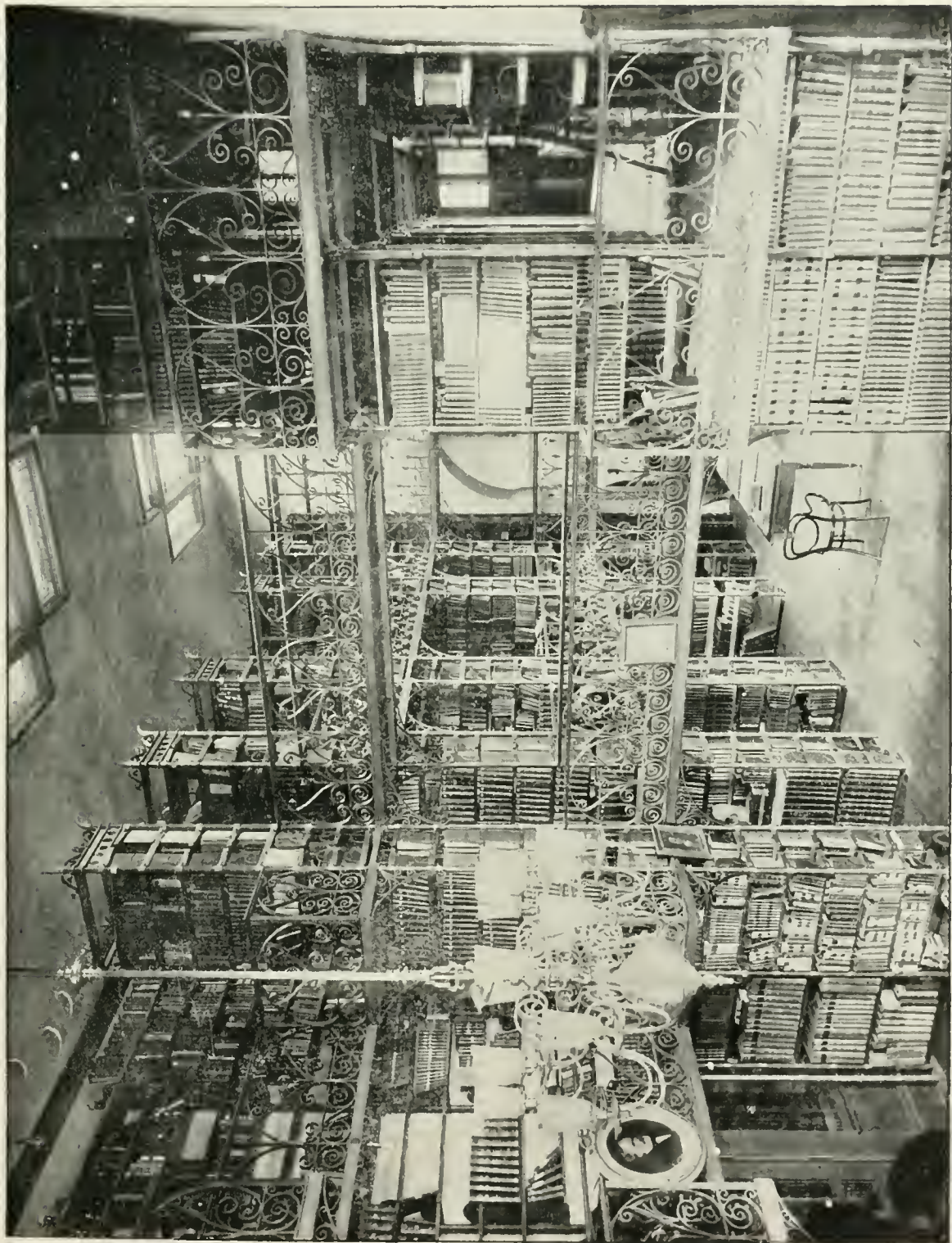
Cataloguing Room.

porary reference, or collateral reading on the part of their students. The delivery desk is at the west end of the room, which opens directly into the stack rooms I, I. In front of the delivery desk stand the cases containing the card catalogue. This part of the room is chiefly lighted by a large skylight, the position of which is shown by the dotted lines in the plan of the third story. Additional light, too, is thrown on the delivery desk from the windows in the angles of the stacks.

The dimensions of the west stack, exclusive of the three bays, are forty-seven by forty-four feet, and its book capacity is two hundred and fifty-four thousand volumes. The south stack, forty-two by forty-four feet, is one story less in height than the west stack, and the lower stories are also somewhat encroached upon by the reading room; so that its book capacity is only one hundred and fifty thousand volumes. In these stacks the window openings are all placed between the ranges of bookcases; while the large bays, of which there are three in the west and two in the south stacks, furnish excellent reading alcoves for special students. In the angles formed by the junction of the book stacks with the reading room are staircases and book lifts, running from the bottom to the top of the stacks: on the plan these lifts are marked L. For the stacks a modification of the gas-pipe construction, which has been found so satisfactory in the Buffalo Library, has been adopted.

Adjoining the reading room is the librarian's room H, commanding both reading rooms and the cataloguing room, being thus placed, as it ought to be, at the very centre of administration, and where the librarian is easily accessible to students who may need his assistance. The walls of this room are for the most part little more than glass screens, especially on the west and north sides, so that an abundant supply of light is obtained from the large west windows. The cataloguing room, G, is forty-five by twenty-two feet, with a large bay twenty by fifteen feet, and is divided into alcoves by ranges of bookcases projecting from the east wall, containing the large and excellent working bibliographical collection. In the great bay stands the cataloguers' work-table, hexagonal in shape, and eight feet in diameter; in the centre of the table is a revolving bookcase containing the books most frequently used by the cataloguers. Here six persons, each with a desk space four feet in length, can work at the same time without interference, while the most useful reference books are within easy reach of all. Here, too, an ample supply of light is provided by large windows extending to the ceiling. In a recess on the east side of this room is the book lift M, communicating with the unpacking room in the basement, which is also reached by the stairway directly from the cataloguing room.

From the inner entrance hall a staircase leads to the President White Historical Library, the entrance to which is on the second floor, though it is also indicated on the third floor plan. This library occupies the large room W, which is sixty-six by twenty-three feet, exclusive of the large bay, and extends through two stories into the roof. Here the books are arranged somewhat upon the alcove system, and it is likely to remain a favorite study room for historical students, as



The President White Library of History and Political Science.

it is certainly one of the most attractive rooms in the building. In the open central space are large reading tables, and in each of the twelve wide alcoves is placed a small study table for the use of readers. Direct and easy access is given, by the staircase at the southwest corner, to the general reading room and to the west stack, and doors open from the galleries to the historical seminary rooms. With the galleries as now arranged it has a book capacity of forty thousand volumes, which can be increased to fifty thousand if necessary. On the



Seminary Room for American History.

second floor, adjoining the White Library on the east, is a single seminary room R, shown on the plan in a detached position, but really situated immediately below the room marked P. This room has been assigned to the Sage School of Philosophy, and contains a select philosophical library for the use of advanced students.

On the third floor of the north wing, opening from the central hall, are the seminary rooms devoted to European History, P, and American History, N, and

the editorial room of the *Philosophical Review*, published under the auspices of the University. From these two seminary rooms doors open directly into the alcoves of the White Historical Library, and each contains a good working collection of books for seminary purposes. For example, that in the American History room comprises complete sets of the Congressional Annals, Debates, and *Record*, the Executive Journals of the Senate, the American Archives and State Papers, the U. S. Statutes, the collection of Colonial and State Laws, and Colonial



Seminary Room for the Ancient Classics

Records, the standard histories of the United States, the collected writings of Washington, Franklin, Hamilton, and other leading statesmen; and such other books as may be needed from time to time by students at work on special subjects.

Returning to the entrance hall C, on the main floor, a staircase leads to the basement; here on the west side of the building, entirely above ground, are three handsome rooms, occupying the space directly beneath the librarian's room

and the cataloguing room, all well lighted and ventilated, and communicating with each other. Of these rooms one is assigned to the English seminary, one to the Greek and Latin seminaries, and one to the French and German seminaries. Here, too, are collections of books for the use of seminary students; thus the Greek and Latin room, which is shown in the accompanying photograph, contains a carefully selected reference library for the study of classical literature, and complete sets of the principal philological journals and transactions.



Periodical Room.

Beneath the periodical room B, is a large room, lighted by high windows on the north and east, corresponding to those shown in B. This room has been assigned to the seminaries in Political Economy and Social Institutions. On its shelves is a rapidly growing collection of blue-books, sets of economic and statistical journals, reports of boards of trade and similar bodies, and an important collection of municipal documents of American cities.

In all the seminary rooms the tables are fitted with lock drawers for the convenience of members of the seminaries, and from each room direct communication can be had with the delivery desk by means of speaking tubes. For advanced students these rooms offer unsurpassed facilities for the successful prosecution of independent research, with full command of all the resources of the University Library.

Beneath the cloak rooms D and E is the unpacking room, with an outside entrance for the reception of books, communicating directly with the cataloguing



Seminary Room of Political and Social Science.

room by the lift M, and the staircase as shown on the plan. The remaining portion of the basement, beneath the reading room A, is fitted up as a lecture room or hall, and contains seats for an audience of nine hundred. It is lighted by windows on the south and east sides corresponding to those in the general reading room A. There are two main entrances to this hall (not shown upon the plan), one on the east, the other on the south front of the building, and access

can be had also from the general entrance hall, through the basement. In the tower, which forms a very conspicuous feature of the building, is placed a chime of bells presented at the opening of the University by Mrs. Fiske, and also the University clock. The entrance to the tower, being in the basement, story is not shown on the plan. One of the series of small tower rooms is used as janitor's quarters, and the others, having been fitted up with shelves, serve as storage rooms for documents, records, etc.

It will be seen from the figures which have been given as to the book capacity of the stacks, reading rooms, etc., that the building will provide storage for at least 475,000 volumes, or nearly four times the present extent of the library, with facilities for almost indefinite extension of the book-stacks in the future.

Introductory Exercises.

The formal gift of the Library Building and its endowment was made by the Hon. Henry W. Sage, at a meeting held in the Library Lecture Room, at 2:30 o'clock on the 7th of October, 1891. The room, seating about one thousand, was comfortably filled with invited guests. On the stage was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the President of the University, and the several speakers of the day. The following was the order of exercises:

Music,	.	.	.	.	Ithaca Quartette.
Prayer,	.	.	.	.	Rev. Charles M. Tyler.
Music,	.	.	.	.	Ithaca Quartette.
Presentation of the Library Building and of the Endowment of the Library,					
					Hon. Henry W. Sage.
Acceptance of the Building and Endowment in behalf of the University,					
					President Charles K. Adams.
Presentation of the President White Library of History and Political Science,					
					Hon. Andrew D. White, LL. D.
Acceptance of the President White Library in behalf of the University,					
					Mr. George W. Harris, Librarian.
Address,	.	.	.	.	President Daniel H. Gilman, LL. D., of Johns Hopkins University.
Address,	.	.	.	.	Hon. Stewart L. Woodford.
Address,	.	.	.	.	Professor Moses Coit Tyler, LL. D.
Music,	.	.	.	.	Ithaca Quartette.
Benediction,	.	.	.	.	Rev. Charles M. Tyler.

At the beginning of the exercises the President called attention to the fact that it was twenty-four years that very day since the doors of the University were first thrown open to the student world. In less than a quarter of a century the beautiful slopes of this hill-side had been converted from barren pasture-

land into the thriving abode of an important seat of learning. Building after building had arisen to testify to the demands of the public and the prosperity of the University. To-day, he said, we come together with glad hearts to celebrate the completion of what must for all time be the most important structure on these grounds.

After music by the Ithaca Quartette, the Rev. Professor Charles M. Tyler offered the following

PRAYER.

O God, our Father, whose wisdom and power and mercy are from everlasting, it is fitting that in the small and great transactions of life, we confess our need of thine assistance. Encircled by thy Providence, and borne on the currents of thine infinite purpose, we can do nothing without thy permission; certainly cannot defeat thy will. What we shall this day accomplish will launch an influence to be felt for many generations.

We thank Thee for the gift to us and to the world of this noble edifice, founded and reared by the sacrifices of one, to whose heart are always dear the honor of God and the welfare of humanity. Accept our gratitude for the immense blessing which, through his benevolence and toil, thou dost confer upon us. May this majestic spire and massive walls stand for centuries unshaken; may all the wisdom of the past and teachings of the present time, garnered here with pious care, never be put to ignoble use. We stand here to-day before the destinies which await us. The curtain which, with its invisible folds, hides the future from us, sways as if about to part and reveal the grandeurs of Eternity to us all. He who to-day by this gift is so deserving of our gratitude, will soon with us all pass beyond the stars, and our duties and solicitudes be assumed by those who shall rise up after us. May an enduring gratitude spring up in the hearts of all who in the centuries to come shall throng to these halls of learning for the blessings and privileges this day secured by a noble benefaction.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Ithaca Quartette then sang "Alma Mater," after which the President introduced Mr. Sage as the one whom, above all others, the audience had assembled to hear.

Presentation Address by Mr. Sage.

Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees,

Mr. President, and Ladies and Gentlemen:

Among the most important gifts to Cornell University after its original endowment by Ezra Cornell, was the stone Library building, the corner stone of which was laid in 1869, and the completed house presented and delivered to us in the fall of 1872 by John McGraw. The chime of bells was presented by Jennie McGraw, and from that time to this the home of our library has been there.

Our equipment in books was small. At the beginning in 1869 we had 18,000 volumes. Two years later, in June, 1871, 27,500 volumes. From that time on



Henry Williams Sage.

to 1880 our annual appropriation for library was but about \$1,500; since then larger. But to June, 1891, our total increase of books, by gift and purchase, has been 66,330 volumes, and these added to the 18,000 we had twenty-two years since make the present number 84,330 volumes, besides the library presented by our late honored President, numbering, I suppose, about 30,000 volumes. Of these a large number have been gifts. From our own government and the state at least 4,000 volumes; from the British government 3,000 volumes; from Goldwin Smith over 3,000 volumes; from Ezra Cornell, Andrew D. White, Eugene Schuyler, Willard Fiske, and other professors of Cornell University, William Kelly, S. J. May, and others, several thousand more. Our annual increase by purchase has averaged about 1,400 volumes. We had not financial power to make it larger until a very recent date. Now, when we consider that a library is to a college or university like a boiler to a steam engine, powder to artillery, commissary department to an army, stomach and lungs to the human frame, the very source of vital power and energy, an ever present deposit of the best thoughts of the best men for the use of the learned and of those beginning to learn, we can understand why additions to such reservoirs of power are hailed with joy by every lover of moral and intellectual progress.

It has been the dream of the founders and builders of Cornell that some day we should possess a library worthy of their purposes and aspirations and of the great cause they were trying to serve. John McGraw, who clearly comprehended our wants, at one time intended to devote to them a large portion of his estate. But his purpose changed. He died in May, 1877, leaving to his only child and heir, Jennie McGraw, substantially all his fortune. He well knew that her wishes with regard to Cornell Library were his own, and left her with liberty and power to do as she pleased. A few days after his death, she made her first will, giving to the University \$500,000 and all her residuary estate. Later on, as Mrs. Jennie McGraw-Fiske, after amply providing for her husband, her relatives and her friends, and many noble charities, she gave by will to the trustees of Cornell University forty thousand dollars for a students' hospital, fifty thousand for a fund to keep in repair and beautify her father's library building, two hundred thousand and all her residuary estate for the Library. This fund, had it been permitted to accumulate without conflict or legal costs, would have amounted to-day to more than two million dollars, and have given us the basis for a library unequalled at that time on this continent. Our largest hopes seemed to have been fully realized, our thankfulness and joy were literally boundless. In September, 1881, this pure and noble woman died. Measured by what she *tried* to do, she was by far the greatest benefactor Cornell ever had.

We all know something of the conflict over her estate since she died. In 1890 the final decision of the United States Supreme Court, holding that Cornell already had capital in excess of her charter limits and therefore could not take or hold more, swept away from us every dollar of her bequest. Her will as to gifts made to us was wholly invalid, all her noble purposes were defeated, and Cornell's hopes for a Library (supposed to have been well founded) dashed to the ground! The deep depression caused by the result to our friends here can only be comprehended by those who, with every interest of Cornell dear to their hearts, felt the blow most keenly. Our late President was completely overwhelmed. He has often said he thought it would be his death blow. The friends of education everywhere have deplored it as a great calamity!

In this connection, I dislike to speak of myself, but a truthful history compels me to do so. John McGraw was my friend for more than forty years. Jennie was my friend from her early childhood. When I saw that her purposes were in peril, I resolved to do what I could to promote and repair them; and when the blow came, I was ready to proceed with the construction of this house and to endow it with \$300,000, the income to be used only for the purchase of books. I deeply regret that instead of \$300,000 endowment, I cannot make it equal to the whole sum lost, but that is impossible, and to the extent of my ability consistent with other duties, I have done what I can. There is capacity here for about 490,000 volumes, and indefinite extension of the Library stack rooms west and south. Should our endowment fund earn five per cent. or \$15,000 per year, that sum, with gifts we shall doubtless receive as in the past, will increase our books 15,000 volumes annually; and in twenty-five years absorb all our present capacity.

A late important addition to the building, without which it would not be complete, is a bronze medallion of Jennie McGraw over the front door entrance, affectionately contributed by my sons, Dean and William H. Sage, and their wives, who were her friends. It is the production of Boston's eminent artist, Miss Anne Whitney, and a remarkable likeness. It is finished. I have your treasurer's receipt for \$260,000 which I was to pay for the building, and \$300,000 for its endowment.

Jennie McGraw rests with her father in yonder chapel. In full view and overlooking it stands and will stand the work I have done, representing a small part only of that she *tried to do*, but could not! I present all to the Trustees of Cornell University, through you, Mr. President, as a memorial of our departed friends, and of my undying loyalty to them and to Cornell University. May God bless the gift and its uses, to all who in future years shall come here to teach or learn.



Bronze Medallion of Mrs. Jennie McGraw-Fiske, over the Front Entrance.

Address of Acceptance by President Adams.

MR. SAGE:—

In behalf of the University, I accept of this munificent gift; and in the name of the Board of Trustees, in the name of this vast body of students, in the name of that great procession of seekers after knowledge which in future years shall come with eager minds and glad hearts to this seat of learning, in the name of every lover of knowledge, I extend to you most hearty thanks.

This is not the first time you have come to the University bearing gifts. Early in the history of the institution you erected the first of the noble buildings which bear your name, in order that in Cornell University women might "forever be as broadly educated as men." A little later you built the Chapel, to the end that the spiritual as well as the intellectual natures of our students might have encouragement and sustenance. Still later, in order that what Milton so aptly calls "Divine Philosophy," might have upon these grounds a congenial, and, perhaps, a favorite abiding place, you endowed the school that has already taken so prominent and useful a place in our curriculum of studies. And now you have performed the crowning act of your munificence in giving to the University this worthy storehouse of the most precious thoughts of mankind.

Nor have you brought buildings alone. A distinguished president of the oldest college in the country once called attention to the fact that it often places upon an institution an embarrassing annual burden to accept the gift of a building that is not endowed. But you have placed us under no such embarrassment. The care of Sage College forever was provided for; Sage Chapel finds its pulpit filled with the most eminent preachers of the country through the generous provision of one of the members of your family; and the University Library now receives a fund which for all time will be a fountain sending forth perennial streams of influence for the help of humanity.

How completely and delightfully this work of your hand and heart will perform its mission, only those can know who have observed the development of its provisions as they have taken shape under your watchful care. The service of a great library should be twofold. It should bring together the sources of information in copious abundance; and it should provide for making these sources easily accessible to every searcher after truth. The one is here accomplished by the magnitude of your endowment; the other by the skill with which the details of the building have been arranged. The one is not less important than the

other; for, after all, the very highest service a library can perform is to make so easy and attractive the companionship of books that it will abide as a perpetual inspiration and an everlasting possession.

I cannot close this part of my pleasant duty to-day without congratulating you, that with so large a measure of health and vigor you have come to see the completion of the work.

Often have I heard you say that you hoped that your life might be spared to see the School of Philosophy established and the Library Building erected. You have sometimes intimated that if such a wish should be granted, you would be completely satisfied. That wish has been gratified. But with no such wish as that shall we be content. Rather, it is in our hearts to say: May your vigor and your counsels be spared to the University; may you yet have many, many years with us in which to see the beneficent fruits of your labors, and may all those years be years of happiness and peace.

Presentation Address by ex-President White.

In formally transferring to Cornell University the library which has heretofore been my own, it seems not unfit to give a brief sketch of its origin, growth and purpose.

Its nucleus was a little book which I now hold in my hand, entitled "Poems of the Pleasures," consisting of "The Pleasures of Imagination," by Akenside, "The Pleasures of Memory," by Rogers, "The Pleasures of Hope," by Campbell, "The Pleasures of Friendship," by McHenry.

This little volume, picked up at an auction sale by my dear and venerated father and given me in my boyhood, is the first book I ever looked upon with a sense of ownership.

The first noteworthy growth of the library began in my college days: it was, at the beginning, mainly literary, but as time went on it became more and more a collection of historical works.

A student life of nearly three years in Europe, just after my graduation, added largely to it. My honored friend, the President of Johns Hopkins University, who will shortly address you, will remember well how in our youthful days together in London, Paris and elsewhere, my passion for book-hunting was often indulged out of season, as well as in season, and sometimes stood in the way of what seemed better employment.

As professor of history, first at the University of Michigan, and afterward at



Andrew Dickson White.

Cornell, the need of more and more historical material, both for my classes and myself, was constantly forced upon me, and this caused the collection to grow steadily. Many journeys in our own country and eight visits to Europe added to it: the study of each new historical period opened up new necessities as to books, and to secure these, during more than thirty years, a keen hunt has been carried on in book shops, new and old, from Quebec to St. Augustine,—from St. Petersburg to Naples,—from Edinburgh to Athens,—from Constantinople to Cairo. All four quarters of the globe have thus, in greater or less degree, been laid under contribution.

But it would be gross injustice not to mention here with honor and gratitude the name of one man whose agency in collecting books for the Library has, during these ten years past, been far more important than my own: that man is my friend, Professor George Lincoln Burr. To his exhaustive and accurate knowledge, excellent judgment, broad view of the scope of such a library, deep sense of its true purpose, and devotion to the University, is due far more than to any efforts of my own the most valuable growth of this collection. He too, has ransacked the most important repositories of historical treasures throughout Europe, and has given to the collection a value which it probably never would have obtained without his unselfish labor.

And now, it may be asked, what was the formative idea in this work?

The impulse which caused the devotion to historical studies of such time as was left me from administrative and other cares in a busy life, arose from the belief that the main means of instructing thinking men for the future must be a thoughtful study of the past. This idea, as it struck the mind of an ancient philosopher and poet, is imprinted upon the book-plate inserted in many of the volumes, in these words: "*Discipulus est prioris posterior dies.*" ("The day after is the disciple of the day before.")

More and more this great truth has been borne in upon me; that the divine purpose in this universe, especially in human history, is shown in a process of unfolding; of unrolling; of evolution. Hence it is that this library is not, by any means, a mere mass of historical narratives. Many as there are of these, they are, so to speak, but the frames containing the more valuable part of the collection: far more important than this framing is the filling in with that material which in and by itself shows the making of history, especially in its greatest epochs.

Of this material may especially be named that relating to the development of man and institutions in prehistoric periods;—in Egypt;—in Antiquity gener-

ally;—in the Middle Ages;—at the Reformation;—the Revival of Learning;—the Counter Reformation;—the Thirty Years War;—the French Revolution;—the English Commonwealth Period;—and the American Civil War. Besides these, collections have been made showing some of the most instructive struggles of civilization with barbarism; of light with darkness; and among these may be mentioned the struggle of divinely illumined thought against Witch-craft, against cruel systems of Penal Law and Procedure, against Slavery, against barbarous views of International Law.

The growth of Art as an important factor in civilization is also represented in the collection, and although a great share of this part is intrusted to the College of Architecture, much in other fields of Art is left in this building.

Historical progress in various industries, Industrial Art and the various sciences has also been kept in mind and is largely represented.

The development of Religion ever toward higher forms, ideals, and results has also been kept constantly in mind. This part of the collection has been made, not in skepticism, but in faith;—faith in a divine evolution of the universe, working, so far as man's highest interests are concerned, through various forms of religion ever toward a more noble development of humanity.

And now a practical word as to the accumulation of such collections. I hope that there are some before me who will hereafter have the means and the wish to taste the pleasure and enjoy the profit of collecting good books. Such pleasure and such profit are among the best things in human life. I can hardly imagine that any form of sport can give keener enjoyment than book-hunting. It is not surprising that many have found pleasure in it, but what is surprising to me is that any man who has ever made a really fine collection of books, pictures or valuable material of any sort, should be willing to have it sold and dispersed after he has ceased to use it.

Let me remind any now before me who shall hereafter make collections of works on any worthy subject, that the building we open here to-day, due to the loving purpose of a devoted woman and the heroic determination of a noble man, is one of the places in which collections of any sort can best be kept together for the highest profit and purest pleasure of future generations of American scholars.

In the old Abbey Library of St. Gall, I once turned over books that had been placed there with faith and loving care over a thousand years ago; and we may well hope that these books, placed here to-day, and those which shall be added to them by the splendid endowment given by him who established this building and by others who shall emulate his example, may go on enlightening and uplifting generation after generation for centuries to come.

And here I may not omit an expression of the feeling which must be in all our hearts; the feeling of deep gratitude to Jennie McGraw-Fiske, and to her friend, Henry Williams Sage. Others will doubtless speak more fully of our indebtedness to them, but none can feel it more deeply than myself. Apart from the gratitude which springs from a deep attachment to the University, I have a profound personal feeling of thankfulness to the man who has provided so perfect and so beautiful a place for the Library which it has been one of the pleasures of my life to accumulate.

Nor should the architect be forgotten. We may well take especial pride in the fact that this building embodies the plans of a son of Cornell. It is indeed, a marvel of good planning, in which fitness is wedded to beauty. Long may it stand as a source of strength to future generations.

And now I commit these books to the keeping of the University formally, as I have already done legally. May they and the additions made to them prove a source of inspiration to generation after generation. May higher thought and better work ever blossom out of what is to-day planted. May all such thought and work serve to develop a civilization which shall be more and more worthy of the opportunities with which God has blessed our beloved country.

Address of Acceptance by Librarian Harris.

Mr. President, and Ladies and Gentlemen :

I rejoice that there has fallen to my lot to-day the pleasant duty of accepting, in behalf of the University, the custody of this valuable collection of books which you, sir, have so generously presented, and I wish that I could fitly express the gratification we all must feel in knowing that its treasures, whose gathering has been for so many years a labor of love, are now placed beyond the risk of dispersion,—that sad fate of so many a noble collection,—and have found an abiding home in our University Library.

Our University Library, though a well-selected and most admirable working library for the every-day needs of university instruction, has hitherto been very deficient in what a distinguished librarian has well called the antiquarian element. Without this antiquarian element, which includes not only manuscripts and old or rare books, but all that extensive class of books known to historians as "Sources," no library, however large its numbers, can hope to be ranked among great libraries. It is the presence of this antiquarian element that causes a library to become the resort of scholars engaged in special lines of research;

and not only does it act as a magnet to draw scholars from a distance, but it attracts as well the libraries and collections of scholars. Now, it is precisely this element which is most fully represented in the President White Library, and adds so largely not alone to its intrinsic worth, but to its value for university purposes. It is therefore with peculiar satisfaction that we welcome its accession to our University collection.

Mr. Sage, by his princely gift of this noble dwelling and its endowment, has laid the broad and firm foundations for a great university library; you, sir, by the gift of your rich historical collection, have so greatly strengthened our library on its weakest side, that we may even now fairly claim for it a place among the great libraries of our land; it remains for us, by wise administration of its resources, to make it, as I trust some here to-day may live to see it, one of the great libraries of the world.

Historical Address by Daniel C. Gilman, LL.D.,

PRESIDENT OF JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY.

There are days in the lives of institutions, as well as of individuals, when we enter the realms of poetry and seem to be walking in the Elysian Fields. Such a day is this. As I went this morning through these halls where silence is eloquent, it was like a dream. Such arrangements for the care and use of books are ideal. In any building it is rare to find the omnipresent union of beauty and utility, which your gifted architect has secured in this structure; it is most rare to see a library where, amid ornaments that allure and inspire the scholar without distracting his attention, the varied needs of various readers are adequately supplied. Here, as in many other libraries, are collected the priceless books of literature, history, philosophy, science, architecture, and art, from the Book of the Dead on papyrus, which faces us at the threshold, to the latest records of human thought,—but here, as in few other places, such treasures may be enjoyed with abundant light, in an equable temperature, in the atmosphere of repose, with learned and ready teachers near at hand, and with opportunities to enter those glorified cells of the cloister which we call the Seminaries of Knowledge. In the name of American scholars far away, I join with you, ladies and gentlemen, in thanking your great benefactor, Mr. Sage, in thanking his generous ally, President White, and in thanking the authorities of Cornell University for the example that is here set for American colleges to follow.

Such are the thoughts awakened in this place and at this moment, but I am

here not to talk of your own treasures. It is rather my privilege to bring before you the thoughts that were suggested at a distance by a knowledge of this remarkable gift. As I proceed you will not be surprised if in one mood I am retrospective, in another prospective, in both circumscriptive.

I write the opening lines of this address in one of the shrines of American education. It is in suggestive Stratford, of Connecticut—the library of Samuel Johnson, first president of the first college established in the province of New York. With his books are those of his illustrious son, William Samuel Johnson, second president of the same college, now called Columbia. Here hang their portraits and those of their distinguished kindred. Here are original letters received from famous Englishmen and Americans of colonial days. The library is “stratified.” Each owner has added to his inheritance, and the deposits, like fossils, reveal the life-histories of several generations. Here, for example, is a copy of Viner’s *Abridgment of English Law*, brought home in the saddle-bags from New York, volumes after volumes, by a promising youth who was destined to become one of the authors of the Constitution of the United States. Here are two folio volumes of Johnson’s dictionary sent to his New England correspondent by the great lexicographer, unconscious of the coming days when three New Englanders, Webster, Worcester, and Whitney, would recast and enlarge the great vocabulary.

Every book, every portrait, every paper has its story. But none are so suggestive to me as those of Bishop Berkeley. I take down his own writings, I read the record of his life in Newport, and the narrative, well told by Dr. Beardsley, of the intimate relations between the author of *Alciphron* and his friend in Stratford, and I am reminded that when the disheartened idealist was about to return to the old world, Samuel Johnson visited him at Whitehall and made a suggestion which soon bore fruit—ten-fold, a hundred-fold, a thousand-fold, who shall say? He proposed to Berkeley to send some books to the college in New Haven, and by-and-by they came. Rector Clap said it was the choicest collection which had ever been imported into this country at one time. It gave dignity at once to the institution at New Haven. It brought before the students and instructors perhaps a thousand well chosen volumes, many of them folios, by classical authors, theologians, philosophers, historians. It became the magnet to which students were attracted. Other gifts were drawn to it, and now a native of the very town in which Johnson was born,* has provided for the books

* Mr. S. B. Chittenden, a native of Guilford, Conn

of Berkeley, and for all subsequent accessions, a building which is remarkable for dignity, convenience, and the beauty of adaptation.

Berkeley's gift was an epoch in the history of American libraries, but it was not the dayspring, for long before, John Harvard had bestowed his books on the college that bears his name. The founders of Yale took from their own shelves the books which constituted the original property of the college. A little later Jeremiah Dummer sent to Connecticut many valuable works contributed by English donors, among whom were Sir Isaac Newton and Sir Richard Steele. Nevertheless the collection that came from Bishop Berkeley was so large, so timely, and so choice, and moreover was given so cordially by a Churchman to Puritans, that it is right for us, on this memorable day, to pause and pay our reverence to the name of that rare man, possessed of "every virtue under heaven." Has not the spirit of Berkeley remained in the new world he loved so well? Has it not descended upon the founder of this library, who likewise believes in the union of Religion and Learning, and who does what he can for the promotion both of Knowledge and Faith?

These historical allusions may be carried too far, yet if Bishop Berkeley is borne in mind, Doctor Franklin must not be forgotten, for he was engaged in 1731, the year when Johnson paid a parting visit to Berkeley, in founding a library in Philadelphia, to which, some years later, James Logan made his memorable additions. The examples of Berkeley and Franklin are an inheritance better than great riches. Nothing which they proposed could be narrow, or provincial, or sectarian, for they were men of broad views as well as of generous impulses. One was a bishop, one a statesman; one an idealist, one thoroughly practical: both were philosophers and philanthropists who deserve to be remembered in every library of this land.

Even with the aid of these generous sponsors, the infant libraries of this country grew up very slowly. A century passed after Berkeley's gift before they reached maturity. It was not until 1831 that the potent influence of Anthony Panizzi was brought to bear upon the arrangement and administration of the British Museum. I quite agree with the learned librarian of Cambridge, who said to me, not many days ago, with reference to the wonderful advances of the last half century in bibliothecal management, "the modern impulse is due to Panizzi." This great man was more than a public functionary, more than a bibliographer, more than an antiquary, more than the keeper of the printed books. Other foreigners in England have won renown, like Bunsen in diplomacy and archaeology, Max Muller in philology, Rosetti in literature, and in any such pur-

suit Panizzi might have gained distinction. If he chose a career of less note, he so exalted that calling by his learning, wisdom, administrative power, and regard for public interest, as to make it an honor to belong to the Librarian's guild, to the school of Panizzi. Three centuries hence his name will be recalled as Frenchmen now recall the name of Jacques de Thou, the learned historian who, three centuries ago, was placed by Henry IV over the library of the king, and transformed it into the national library, which is now one of the greatest glories of Paris and of France.

But I must not be diverted from what I had to say in respect to the modern advancement of American libraries. When Professor Kingsley went to Europe in 1845 to buy books for the library of Yale, that collection numbered 34,000 volumes. Harvard was better off, for it counted 61,000 volumes, and was supplemented by the neighboring Athenæum in Boston. At that time the collections of other colleges were even less significant. Any one who is curious as to such statistics may find them carefully arranged in the American Almanacs of the period referred to.

Our modern era begins with the establishment of the Boston Public Library, *Anno Bibliothecæ Bostoniensis conditæ*. Its influence upon the country may be compared with the opening of the Central Park in New York, foremost of many public pleasure-grounds; with the building of Trinity Church in Boston, the emancipation of American architecture; and with the foundation of Cornell University, pioneer in many college improvements. It was a fortunate misfortune that removed Professor Charles C. Jewett from the Smithsonian Institution and placed him at the head of the Boston Library. He was not more learned nor more devoted nor more wise than Dr. Cogswell, then engaged on the foundations of the Astor Library; he was not more sagacious or practical than Mr. Herriek of New Haven, an ingenious master of details; but he was fortunate in the environment of Boston. Public opinion in that city demanded such a library as Professor Jewett had conceived, free, large, well catalogued, adapted at once to the public and to the scholar, dependent partly on the civic chest, partly upon the private purse, fitted to furnish entertainment and pleasure to the weary workman, fitted to inspire and satisfy the most gifted genius. The Harvard Library was accessible to the college, and the Boston Athenæum to its shareholders, and the Mercantile Library to its subscribers; but the public called for something larger, freer, better, "open to all," like the schools of which Boston has ever been proud. Everett, Ticknor, and many more of those whom Webster called "the solid men of Boston," became trustees and benefactors of the new undertaking.

The spirit of this library did not depart when the spirit of Jewett was called upward. Justin Winsor carried forward in a noble way the work that had been so well begun, and his colleagues and successors, librarians and trustees, have advanced the library to a very high degree of perfection. When it is transplanted, as it soon will be, to the magnificent building on the Back Bay, near to the Museum of Fine Arts, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Museum of Natural History, and the Medical School of Harvard University, the world will see distinctly what an American city can do in the course of thirty years, for the delight, the instruction, the elevation and the cultivation of the people. There are times when we lament with good reason the degeneracy of city government, and grow indignant at the triumph of unworthy men and unworthy measures; and where we are righteously impatient for reforms so needed and yet so slow to come; but we cannot despair of the Republic if we recall what a single generation of united citizens has accomplished in Boston, or if we look at three noble foundations in and near the Central Park of New York, or if we turn to Chicago coming to the front with two libraries, richly endowed, a buoyant university, and a promised exhibition of the progress of the liberal arts and sciences.

I will not venture to say which of the new library buildings of this country will prove to be the best. Each may be best in its own place, for its own purposes. Some of the less famous structures, like the Rindge Library at Cambridge, the Buffalo Public Library, the Worcester Public Library, are doubtless as good as the greater structures in New York, Boston, New Haven, Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, Ann Arbor, Milwaukee and Chicago.

In lighting, heating, airing and shelving, the new buildings are admirable; many of them also, in exterior aspect. Copies of Greek temples, like the Rush Library of Philadelphia, and suggestions of Gothic chapels, like Gore Hall and the old library of Yale College (which were built half a century ago), are no longer in demand—a satisfactory change, due in part to the able architects who have been engaged during the last ten or fifteen years in library construction, and in part to the experienced criticism and counsel of librarians like Dr. Poole. In the preparation and publication of catalogues the work of Jewett, Ezra Abbot, Poole, Winsor, Spofford, Cutter, Uhler and others has left but little room for suggestions or improvements, although rumors come from San Francisco that great economies are still in prospect,—especially for printed catalogue. Facile administration has been secured by numerous convenient and inexpensive devices, suggested by Dewey and his collaborators. The promptness with which any book

among a hundred thousand may be identified and summoned, as if it were touched by an electric wire, is an unfailling surprise to those who are wont to spend hours in their own dens looking for some long-lost friend, and an unfailling gratification to every busy student. Mr. Winsor has devised the mechanical devices by which any book among ten millions may be brought to the table where it is wanted in three or four minutes, and it is reported that the devices will be introduced in the new library of Congress. The time during which public libraries may be visited has been greatly extended. Vacations have been reduced to a minimum. Many large collections are opened until late in the evening, and with the spread of electric lights, like those of Columbia College, the usage will grow. In the building where we are assembled, not only electric lighting, but also the automatic regulation of the temperature has been introduced. Some are open on Sundays, harbingers of the good time coming when on the day consecrated to rest and quiet, those who would listen to the great thinkers of ancient and modern times shall not be debarred from the halls where living and departed worthies hold silent converse with enquiring minds. The office of a principal librarian is recognized as so dignified and important as to call for the services of scholars, of learning varied and exact, whose skill in collecting books is equalled by their skill in the diffusion of knowledge. Numerous assistants are essential. The art of index-making has been greatly developed and put into practice—thanks partly to the persistence of Dr. Allibone, who enclosed in his letters to literary men exhortations and appeals, and partly to the very great utility of Poole's Indexes to periodical literature. The most recent illustration of this art is among the best, an index (in ninety finely printed pages) to the prose writings of Lowell, prepared by a librarian whose name I will not pronounce lest I should violate his confidence or offend his modesty. The prompt acquisition of books, especially from foreign lands, is no longer a luxury like the importation of spices and gems; it is a necessity if American scholars are to keep in touch with the pulsations of humanity. All this requires a great deal of money. Fortunately rich men and generous are not wanting. A favorite mode of bestowing wealth is the establishment of a library. Witness the noble gifts of the Astors, of Bates, Peabody, Rush, Lenox, Newbury, Crerar, Chittenden, and of many more. Those I have named are all departed founders. Among those who are living, the highest meed of admiration and gratitude is due to Henry W. Sage, the noble benefactor of Cornell University, whose magnificent gifts we celebrate this day.

Yet we must not suppose that our public libraries are perfect. There is

much to be done, everywhere, even in those which are best managed, before the ideal of Panizzi is reached, which he once expressed in some such language as this: I would have a public library so complete that a scholar, however rich, will find it a more convenient working-place than his own study, however well equipped.

Printed books—not to speak of newspapers, handbills, fly-leaves and other ephemera—increase so fast that it would be unreasonable, if it were possible, to bring them all under one roof. Even for the publications of a single country, it may be enough if there are one or two store-houses, like the library of Congress, the British Museum, the National Library of Paris, and the like, where completeness is the aim. Among other libraries some principle of differentiation must be worked out. In a large city this is not difficult.

Let me give you an example from the city of Baltimore, partly because I am most familiar with it, partly because of certain unique advantages it possesses. In that place the Peabody Library may be found, a modern, well chosen, well housed, well arranged, well catalogued collection of more than one hundred thousand volumes, the books of which (with a few exceptions) are retained within four walls, where any inquirer may find them. Not far away is the library of the Johns Hopkins University, arranged on the opposite principle, under ten roofs, and in even more compartments, so that the teachers and students of any branch may have at hand in the seminary or laboratory the books most important for the prosecution of that study. The Assyrian texts which delight one group of scholars do not embarrass the chemist, whose journals do not weigh down the shelves devoted to classical literature. Crelle's *Journal of Mathematics* is precious in the sight of another group of students, to whom the story of Ancassin and Nicolette suggest no attractions. Near these scholarly foundations is a free, public and popular library, the gift of Enoch Pratt, with five distant branches. Most of the Pratt books are for circulation, and every one who wishes, rich or poor, may take home his volume. Around these central institutions are special libraries, under different control, for law, medicine, and theology. There is also a large historical library and a society library, the New Mercantile, where the subscribers have free access to the book-shelves. Thus within a circle whose radius is a third of a mile, over three hundred thousand books are accessible to any student. Few cities in this country supply so well the wants of every class. The principle of differentiation works admirably, because each foundation considers the needs of its own clients, and supplies them as far as possible, and all are thus satisfied.

In the conduct of a single library—the only one of a place—the same princi-

ple may, in part at least, be made efficient. All books are not of equal value, and the same book varies in value, not only at different times, but also in different places. A volume may have its chronological and geographical value. That which is precious to-day was at one time valueless, or it would not have disappeared like the fragments of the *Antiope* of Euripides, lately found by Mr. Petrie, in a mass of waste paper. That which is of slight value to-day may become so rare as to be priceless four centuries hence, as are now the original printed letters of Columbus. Books that a single writer may wish to consult but once in a lifetime, though as worthless as brown paper to all but him, may be to him inestimable. Books that have slumbered for many decades suddenly awake from their lethargy and become living, like Rip van Winkle, perhaps at the touch of a discerning critic who calls them from the tombs, or perhaps at the occurrence of some unexpected event which excites the public curiosity, as the "Partisan Leader" was revived in the beginning of the Civil War. The technical treatises, the nuggets of Americana, the first editions of famous authors, the dissertations of Doctors of Philosophy have their value when in place; out of place, they may be like the straw from which wheat has been threshed. It is not safe for a librarian to destroy any book, lest it should presently be in demand. What then can keep the shelves from encumbrance? Only constant elimination, convenient storage, frequent rearrangement. The books less wanted must be stacked away, half a mile away, if you please, and the books most valued must be brought forward. Constant readjustments are essential to the healthy vitality of a library. This is troublesome, costly, difficult. But public libraries are troublesome, costly, hard to administer. As in a garden, weed the flower-beds every season; but remember that weeds are flowers out of place. The grass which is welcomed on the lawn may be spurned from the rosary. That which spoils the strawberry-patch looks well upon the hedge-row. So let every library, like every plantation, be suitably divided; here grow fruits, here blossoms, here vegetables, here trees, and yes, here also mushrooms. But heed the cautions of "My Summer in a Garden," and beware of too much "pusley." A library is valued not by the quantity it contains, but by adaptation to its clientel age. "I would as soon tell you how many tons the Astor Library weighs, as how many volumes it contains," said its first librarian, the learned Dr. Cogswell. Twenty thousand volumes well chosen and well arranged are worth more than ten times that number hurriedly amassed and ill-assorted. The principle of a compositor's case in a printing-office directly applies to a library. That which is constantly in demand, like the letters *c* and *a*, must be at the fin-

ger's end; that which is rarely wanted, like a caret, or some other unusual mark of punctuation, may be placed at arm's length.

The task of a librarian is not half done when the books are collected and conveniently arranged. They must be exposed, exhibited, set forth; that is, they must be brought to the attention of those who resort to the library, even if they know not what they want. Every scholar, every author of a great book, at least of every great book that involves research, is under obligations to the bibliographers. Look at the prefaces of Prescott, Sparks, Palfrey, and many other writers in the neighborhood of Boston, and see their acknowledgments to Charles Folsom. But such indebtedness is not always acknowledged. I suppose that when the oracles of Apollo were revealed at Delphi, the priestesses did not always receive the recognition that might have been agreeable, but they were satisfied because the Shrine was held in reverence. The more it became a resort for the wise and the powerful, the more the guardians were pleased. So modern librarians, like ancient prophets, reveal what is hidden and interpret what is obscure, preferring usefulness to fame. What is true of advanced scholars is likewise true of beginners. Every young person, every merchant's clerk, every aspiring mechanic, every college student, every candidate for professional distinction, needs to be told what books to read and what to eschew. Capital guides may indeed be found in print, like the hand-book of historical literature prepared by President Adams, like the guide to English history by Gardiner and Mullinger, like Somershausen, Sargent and Whitelaw, Acland, and other kindred hand-books, admirable counsels are given by Frederick Harrison and Sir John Lubbock. Still, the best of such guides are not like personal friends, wise, friendly and sympathetic. I am fond of quoting to young men a remark of Grant Duff, to the effect that if we would read, see and know the best that the world contains, we must always be warned against the second-best. But the best for one reader may be worse than useless for another. It is for the librarian to make the personal equation. He will not offer Sordello to one who wants an introduction to Browning, for he will remember Carlyle's saying that his wife read the volume through without discovering whether Sordello was a man, a city, or a book; nor will he give Pertz's Monumenta to the beginner in German history; nor Newton's Principia to one who asks for a simple statement of the law of gravitation. He will not bring out the Oxford dictionary to a reader who is interested in words beginning with P, nor will he refer to the reports of the British Patent Office for a compact account of the steam-engine. He will not suggest Rollo in Europe to the prospective tourist if Badeker is within reach,

nor supply a Board of Agriculture with twelve copies of Miss Edgeworth on Irish Bulls.* I might name librarians who are masters of the art of adaptation: born to be teachers, delighting to bring the right book to the right person at the right time. There are two towns in New England where the public libraries, not very large and not very well endowed, are centres of light to all the community. Here come the school-teachers and their pupils, the preachers and the editors, the physicians and the lawyers, the inventors and the professors, the tired and sick seeking refreshment, the strong and hearty renewing their strength, and none are sent hungry away. Each is sure that he has found the best for his purposes that the library contains. Worcester owes a great debt to Samuel S. Green; Providence, to W. E. Foster. It was Green who said, in 1876, "there are few pleasures comparable to that of associating continually with curious and vigorous young minds, and of aiding them in realizing their ideals." I have known, on the other hand, libraries where a book off the shelves was regarded as a book out of place, where the librarians were indeed the keepers of the books, where every inquiry for a rare or costly volume was received by the officer in charge with as much reserve as if his private cash-book had been called for. The dictum of Justin Winsor is worthy to be placed by the side of Panizzi's dictum; "A book is never so useful as when it is in use."

In these days when the cry for university extension is popular, it may be well to consider whether the influence of libraries cannot be extended by arrangements which will increase their efficiency. Suppose it to be understood that at certain times an intelligent and well-read person, in the service of the library, is free from all other duties and is ready to give counsel about books to all who question him. Let it be a part of his business to study the wants of those who frequent that library. Let him have at his elbow the best catalogues, indexes, and criticisms. Let him be trained to such habits that he can readily find what he wants in a library, even when for the first time his attention is called to a subject. Let him be of a kindly disposition, patient with the uninformed, ready to catch the meaning of inquirers who have only imperfect modes of indicating their own wants; let his sympathies be broad, his intellect versatile, his knowledge comprehensive; he will do as much for the cultivation of the community as the editor of a newspaper, as the head of a school, as the pastor of a church—perhaps I might say as much as all three. Such persons are often found in public institutions. They ought to be considered as indispensable members of the library staff, the ushers of good books, the mediators between those who write and those

* See Panizzi's Life.

who read. In these remarks I had chiefly in mind the popular library. In learned libraries, like those of colleges and universities, and in those so richly endowed that they are attractive to learned men, the principal librarian or superintendent should be a man of wide knowledge. If it is not necessary for him to know as many languages as Mezzofanti, he should at least command Greek and Latin, French and German. He should love science as well as literature. He should survey with an eagle's eye the vast fields of human activity, and discern with prophetic instinct what books will soon be wanted. He should watch for opportunities as do merchants, to purchase that which rarely comes into the market. He should be skillful in arranging the treasures that he guards, so that they will be most helpful and suggestive to the investigator. The librarian's office should rank with that of a professor. He will be the better administrator if he cultivates his own special branch of study, for thus he will have a sympathetic relation with other investigators, and he will be the better investigator if he is also a teacher. Erudition should be the characteristic of his mind; beneficence, of his heart. I wish it were the established custom to seek out such men and place them in charge of our libraries. Some such already hold conspicuous stations. Their names are familiar to all the scholars of the land. But we need more such men. The profession of a Librarian should be distinctly recognized. Men and women should be encouraged to enter it, should be trained to discharge its duties, and should be rewarded, promoted, and honored in proportion to the services they render. The American Library Association is an important agency for suggesting, upholding, and diffusing wise views upon library management. Its purposes and methods deserve wide commendation.

It is hardly necessary to say that one of the functions of a library is the preservation of the past experiences of our race; but in these days, when the latest intelligence is most welcome, and is secured for us, at enormous outlays, from every part of the world by the newspaper press, with such skill and promptness as former generations did not even imagine, it is well to be reminded by great libraries that wisdom did not begin with the Renaissance, and that knowledge was recorded long before the invention of printing. The revival of learning did indeed infuse into the modern world a love of the study of antiquity, which has been again revived during the last few years; and the progress of the graphic arts, especially photography and typography, has enabled the scholar to read the exact fac-similes of records which were long buried and hidden, and which, if brought to light at an earlier day, might have been neglected as inaccessible, inexplicable, or illegible. The discovery of a portion of Aristotle's *Politics* has

lately excited the scholars of the world, as if a pot of gold had been found at the foot of a rainbow, and the text thereof may be brought before a class by Professor Wheeler in Ithaca as well as by Mr. Kenyon in London, because the British Museum has given to the world an accurate reproduction made by the unerring style of Helios. The Teaching of the Apostles, one of the earliest books of post-apostolic times, preserved in the library of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, has been printed with photographic truth in Baltimore. A professor of Haverford College visited the convent of St. Catherine at Mt. Sinai, long after Tischendorf, and brought away a transcript of a Syriac Aristides, containing a distinct allusion to a written gospel, which Harnack calls a brilliant discovery.* Fragments of Greek authors, recently found upon papyri, have given to the world of scholars, says Professor Jebb, such a ripple of excitement as might have been felt on the discovery of a manuscript in the days of Petrarch. These finds are not mere curios. Isolated, they might be insignificant; in their relations, they are of great importance. It is the nineteenth century that has restored Egypt to her place in ancient history, by the interpretation of her hieroglyphics; that has exhumed Assyrian and Babylonian literature and translated the cuneiform annals of ancient Mesopotamia; that has revealed the site of Troy, and of Tiryns, older than Troy; that has explored Phenicia and Carthage, and has come upon signs, as Mr. Petrie intimates, that a European civilization little indebted to Asiatic lands may have arisen before 2000, B. C.

All this experience great libraries perpetuate for our instruction and delight. So long as curiosity dwells in the mind of man—and when curiosity dies man will be but a beast of burden—so long will he enquire into the origin of man, his habits, his laws, his religions, his institutions, his failures, his endeavors. Our libraries, therefore, gathering up, handing down, arranging, interpreting and making public the lessons of the past, supply one of the most constant and one of the noblest demands of civilization. It is not necessary to determine where the functions of the archæologist end or those of the librarian begin. Both are the interpreters of human experience, the conservators of human records. The fly-leaf, the pamphlet, the book, the photograph, the palimpsest, the parchment, the inscription upon marble or bronze, the coin, the medal, the papyrus, and the wedge-lettered cylinder—these are the journals, the annals, the centuries of humanity. Bring them together, founders of libraries; interpret them, professors of languages; give us their lessons, teachers of history; that the days to come

* For this allusion and two of the following, see the Address of Professor Jebb, as President of the Society for Promoting Hellenic Studies, June, 1891.

may be better than the days of old, that the errors of science, of politics and of religion may not be repeated, that coming generations, standing on the shoulders of their forebears, may see further and act wiser than those who have gone before.

A library, however, is not merely a magazine or storehouse. It is rather to be likened to an organism which has life, which tends to self-preservation, growth and reproduction. It is never the same, not because its elements are shaken up like the beads of a kaleidoscope, but because they grow like the cells of a honeycomb. Constant readjustment of the books that are in demand and no interference with the reader's convenience may be called the librarian's paradox. The problem was solved by Panizzi, on a great scale, when the new rooms of the British Museum were arranged; by Uhler, on a lesser scale, when the Peabody Institute was enlarged. It must be met by every librarian who tries to keep in proximity the important books of any subject, while he sees inviting accessions constantly seeking places

A noble library is a noble organ. Its value depends upon the player. Not everybody who can blow the fife or beat the drum can elicit an organ's harmony. Not everybody who enjoys the music can play a single strain. Not every one who can build the instrument, or who understands the mysterious mechanism of keys and stops and pedals, has the power of melodious expression. But when a master sits at the keyboard, celestial harmonies are heard: history, philosophy, science, poetry, all the muses hover near.

Inspiration is one of the chief functions of a library. In these days of rapid acquisitions, quick demand for the latest publications, and impatience if a book cannot at once be produced, our libraries are in danger of losing one of their most precious qualities—quiet suggestiveness. In every bibliotheca there should be places of repose where the student may have access to the shelves, and, without revealing to any other human mind the operations of his own, may take down, at his own will, and hold for a minute or a day whatever books he pleases. Carlyle was refused such a privilege at the British Museum—and what a blunder! Mark Pattison might have consoled him with the like experience of Casaubon—scholarly friend of Henry IV of France and of James I of England—who was “perpetually thwarted in his natural curiosity to explore the treasures of the royal library in Paris by the morose temper of the custodian—too ignorant to use the library himself, too jealous to allow others to use it.” Of Gosselin, who thus thwarted Casaubon, it is recorded that in the imbecility of extreme old age he still clutched his treasures with desperate grip.*

* Pattison's Casaubon.

The principal librarian, or if not the librarian then the trustees of every large collection, should have the discretion to admit to the shelves those who are qualified in their morals as well as in their understandings to enjoy such privileges. The easy access of the public to twenty or thirty thousand volumes like those which surround the walls of the central reading-room of the British Museum is important, but it is likewise important that men like Casaubon, men like Carlyle, men like Macaulay, should be welcome to the very penetralia. Wherever they go they will bring forth honey.

Repose in a library will become one of the lost illusions of the scholar, if our librarians, with over-readiness to answer the enquiries of the asker of "twenty questions," are not even more alert to recognize and encourage the modest unobtrusive lover of good books. The leisure reader is as worthy as the hurried caller. He is more likely to produce the fruits of quiet reflection and accurate scholarship. If it be said that Lowell is one of the last great writers who have given distinction to Boston during the middle of this century, it may be worth while to enquire whether the gentle, inspiring, peaceful influences of literary Quietism, under which he and Emerson, Longfellow, Ticknor, Hawthorne, Motley, and Prescott, and their kinsmen of the pen grew up, are known to this generation, and whether in our cultivation of other fine arts we are not forgetting the noble art of leisure. Mr. Lowell is right in saying that a leisure class without a definite object in life and without generous aims is a bane rather than a blessing; but it is the writer of the couplets on yonder bell "that calls as fly the irrevocable hours," who has taught in his life the uses of leisure, and in his verse,

—the pleasures of retreat
Safe from the crowd and cloistered from the street.

It is Lowell, speaking to Curtis, who extols

Calm days that loiter with snow-silent tread,
Nor break my commune with the undying dead;
Tenants of Time, to-morrow like to-day,
That come unbid and claimless glide away.

And Lowell, too, who wrote:

I hear the voice as of a mighty wind
From all heaven's caverns rushing unconfined;
"I, Freedom, dwell with knowledge; I abide
With men whom dust of Faction cannot blind
To the slow tracings of the Eternal Mind;
With men by culture trained and fortified."

At the close of President Gilman's address, the Hon. Stewart L. Woodford spoke briefly, emphasizing the great wisdom shown by Mr. Sage in doing his work of benevolence in his own lifetime, and not leaving it to be done by executors after his death. The remarks of Mr. Woodford were followed by the

Address of Moses Coit Tyler, LL.D.,

PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :

We must all have felt, as we have watched this noble business proceeding to its consummation here this afternoon, how true it is that every good deed that is done in this world seems to bring along with it a fine spiritual atmosphere of its own, which actually cheers, and strengthens, and makes better, even those of us who may have had no hand in the doing of the deed,—if only we be so fortunate as to stand near enough to breathe into our lungs some of that fine air, or even to feel upon our cheeks the pressure of those breezy currents of moral energy which the good deed creates. Sometimes men and women come together to dedicate a building like this, and happily by and by they go away finding that in the dedication of the building, they have also and more especially dedicated themselves to all that is noblest and best in the purposes for which the building stands, and to all that is most disinterested and large-hearted in the spirit of some good man who may have caused the building to stand. So it may chance, that upon us who are here this afternoon, as well as upon this splendid library, shall fall the consecrating touch of this good deed of our good friend,—this good deed which now offers this grand building to the pursuit and the service of all truth. For, certainly, just that is what a library is for, particularly a university library; it is for the pursuit and the service of all truth. This building, which for convenience we call a library, is for precisely the same ultimate object, pursued upon precisely the same methods though with different materials, as are those several other buildings in the neighborhood which we call laboratories; and perhaps the true relations of things on this campus would be more clearly indicated, if, while we call one building the chemical laboratory, and another the physical laboratory, and so on, we were to call this building by so queer a name as the documentary laboratory.

At any rate—and this is the point which I wish especially to reach—this building will miss its true object, in so far as it ever becomes a place for mere in-

tellectual frivolity, for literary egoism and self-indulgence, for any sort of pedantry or scholastic foppery, or for such witless and mechanic reading as was meant by Scaliger, when he described a certain Dutch professor of his time as "having read himself into ignorance." Nay, more, this building will miss its true object, in so far as it ever becomes a place for the partisan spirit in research, or for the sophistical spirit in exposition; for anything, in short, but genuine intellectual life and work; for anything but honest work, and thorough work, and work which, because it is both thorough and honest is also fruitful,—giving light and strength to the worker himself, and to many another who may be like him in the common need of light and strength.

And as for us of the Faculty, who, as seekers after truth, and as teachers of it in this university, exist here for objects which make this library seem to be our great and magnificent ally, surely it is a deep happiness to us to have our part in these simple and sincere services of gratitude and of gladness which have already filled this occasion to the very brim.

And now, Mr. President, remembering the sharp time-limit which you have imposed upon me, I may be permitted, as I take my seat, to convey to this assemblage a special message of congratulation which comes to us from a far country—from a famous lover and collector of books, who wrought out his brave life-work in England more than five hundred years ago. His name was Richard de Bury, Bishop of Durham, and Lord High Chancellor; and his message to us this afternoon across half a thousand years is this:—"The glory of the world would perish in oblivion if God had not provided mortals with the remedies of books. Towers crumble to the earth; but he whose book lives cannot die. And it is to be considered, lastly, what convenience of teaching is in books, how easily, how secretly, how safely, in books we bear, without shame, the poverty of human ignorance. These are masters who instruct us without rod and cane, without words and wrath, and for no clothes or money. If you approach them, they are not asleep; if you question them, they are not secret; if you go astray, they do not grumble at you; they know not how to laugh if you are ignorant. O books! ye only are liberal and free, who pay tribute to all who ask it, and set at liberty all who serve you faithfully."

Surely, ladies and gentlemen, that old English prelate and scholar, who, far back in the fourteenth century, founded his noble library at Oxford, and put upon record these words in praise of the benignity and the preciousness of books, was the very man to rejoice with us in the goodly shelter and temple for books which is here provided by a man of a benignant spirit kindred to his own.

At the close of Professor Tyler's Address the Doxology was sung; after which Professor Charles M. Tyler pronounced the Benediction, and the audience dispersed, to devote a pleasant hour to a general inspection of the Library building.





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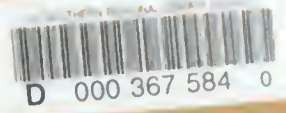
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